REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner interview of January 23, 2008 is acknowledged, with appreciation. The Interview Summary is accurate in its brief description of the issues discussed.

The applicants understand from the Examiner interview that the Examiner was of the view that the claims presented in the Amendment dated January 18, 2008, such as clam 24, did not define over RONDON et al. ("Cloning the Soil Metagenome: A Strategy for Accessing the Genetic and Functional Diversity of Unclutured Microorganisms", Applied and Enviromental Microbiology, Washington, DC, US, Vol. 66, No. 6, June 2000, Pgs. 2541-2547). The above amendment of claim 24 is submitted, without prejudice, to further define over the cited art. Support for the amendment is believed to exist throughout the specification, such as at line 11 of page 16 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

The claims are submitted to be patentable over RONDON for the reasons noted in the Amendment Remarks of January 18, 2008. Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection is requested.

The claims are submitted to be patentable over previously-cited combination of art and consideration of the following, along with the Remarks filed January 18, 2008, are requested in this regard.

Rondon et al. describes a method for producing and analyzing a metagenomic library by using BAC vectors. In this method, the library is obtained by extracting DNA

from soil and inserting it in BAC vectors. Then, a screening for specific biological activities is performed in order to select clones exhibiting the desired activity.

In this document, a selected vector exhibiting the desired activity is not modified in order to be inserted in an other host cell. The only modifications performed on this vector are (i) a transposon insertion in order to inactivate the gene responsible of the exhibited activity and allow its identification, and, (ii) digestions and ligations to produce other vectors.

Consequently, this document fails to teach or suggest modification of cloning vectors of the library to allow transfer and integration of the vector and/or polynucleotide contained in this vector into a chromosome of a new selected host cell.

The obviousness of the combination of Rondon et al. with Chain et al. is not likely considering that the aim of Chain et al. is completely different.

Chain et al. teaches cloning large fragments from the genome of S. meliloti to BAC vectors. For this purpose, a part of the genome (in this case, a small part of the megaplasmid pExo) is excised in order to be introduced and maintained in a host in an autonomously replicating plasmid.

On the contrary, the present invention describes a method comprising the opposite process consisting of the transfer and integration of a polynucleotide and/or a vector into a chromosome of a host cell.

Furthermore, none of the cited art teaches or suggests to integrate a polynucleotide and/or a vector in a chromosome of a host cell within the context of the analysis of a polynucleotide library.

Consequently, a person ordinarily skilled in the art who would like to improve the method to analyze a polynucleotide library, at the time of the invention, would not have been motivated to have combined these documents in an attempt to make the claimed invention.

The claims are submitted to be patentable over the cited art and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections is requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned, preferably by telephone, in the event anything further is required to place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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